

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:161
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2008
UNESCO REPORT ON LITERACY IN INDIA
Mandal Shri Sanat Kumar;Mehta Shri Alok Kumar

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

the concrete steps the Government proposes to take to achieve the goal of universal elementary education to all in view of the UNESCO's Institute of Statistics Report which has stated that India's literacy rate is just a shade over 60 percent compared with the global standards and one-third of the world's illiterates live in India?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH)

A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 161 FOR ANSWER ON 11.3.2008 ASKED BY SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL AND SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA REGARDING UNESCO REPORT ON LITERACY IN INDIA.

The UNESCO Global Monitoring Report (GMR), 2008 refers to India's literacy rate for the period up to 2004, as derived from the Census of India, 2001. The following concrete steps have been taken to achieve universal elementary education and augment efforts to improve the literacy rate in the country.

Enhancement of outlays for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), which also includes National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary level (NPEGEL) and Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV).

Introduction of cooked Mid Day Meal (MDM) scheme for all children in classes I-V in Government/ Local Body and Government Aided schools, and centres under the Alternative and Innovative Education (AIE) and Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS), and its extension to upper primary level in 3479 Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs).

Levy of 2% Education Cess in order to bridge the gap between available plan resources and estimated requirement to finance the programmes for universalisation of elementary education, specifically SSA and MDM.

Programmes under National Literacy Mission aimed at providing functional literacy, post literacy and continuing education.

Existing strategies are to be continued with higher outlays in the 11th Plan for achievement of universal elementary education and enhancement of literacy levels.